

Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2020

A Regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District (CVPCD) was held at the District Office, 82-925 Avenue 52, Coachella, CA 92236, on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. Pursuant to the Executive Order N-29-20 as a result of COVID 19, this meeting was conducted via teleconference by Zoom.

Public Notice: Public notice was posted on the District Website and at the Cemetery Office on Friday, May 8, 2020 by 2:00 PM by the Clerk of the Board.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chairman Ernesto Rosales called the meeting to order at 8:01 am, those in attendance were as follows:

Directors Present: Ernesto Rosales, Chair and Judy Vossler, Vice-Chair

Directors Present

Via Zoom: Bruce Underwood, John Rios and Marcos Coronel, Trustees

Directors Absent: None

Add'l Participants

Present: Lee Kestell, General Manager, and Kathryn Herrera, Clerk of the Board

Add'l Participants

via zoom: Carlos Campos, District Counsel

FLAG SALUTE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

All 15 comments read were sent in via email. Email comments Schedule 'A' attached hereto were regarding:

1 comment: Increase of mosquitos

14 comments: in response to the COVID 19 Emergency Response Fund (CERF) agenda item

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None requested

CONSENT CALENDAR – Board Minutes and Finance and Administration

BOARD MINUTES

Regular meeting – April 14, 2020

Motion: Rios
2ND: Vossler
Discussion: none
Yes: Vossler, Underwood, Rios, Rosales
No: none
Absent: none
Abstain: Coronel

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Expenditures #24173-24239 22:51

Motion: Vossler
2ND: Coronel
Discussion: Trustee Coronel requested and received clarification on the following items:
GASB Report, Government Compensation Report, EDD Tax Payment
Yes: Vossler, Underwood, Rios, Rosales, Coronel
No: none
Absent: none
Abstain: none

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

COVID 19 Emergency Response Fund (CERF):

Trustee Coronel requested to establish and develop the COVID 19 Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in the amount of \$300,000.00 to provide economic/financial relief to district residents.

After Trustees discussion it was so proposed that \$100,000.00 would be set aside to use for COVID-19 & excess related deaths; Customers would be required to pay the lot and endowment fees, all other fees would be reviewed for consideration of assistance via trustee’s approval thru a sub-committee.

Economic assistance would be available now thru Aug 31, 2020. Legal counsel must review and provide final implementation guidelines. A report on how the assistance is granted will be provided to the Board.

Motion: Rosales
2ND: Underwood
Discussion: Legal issues of the Health and Safety code may apply to this relief; legal counsel will review and advise the board prior to use of allocated funds. All Trustees provided comments and concerns. Fee waiver not to be retroactive.
Yes: Vossler, Coronel, Underwood, Rios, Rosales
No: none
Absent: none
Abstain: none

Approval for District counsel to Draft Credit Card Usage Policy (Agenda item 2.2)

Approval for District counsel to Draft Procurement Policy (Agenda item 2.3)

Approval for District counsel to Draft Code of Conduct/Commissioner Manual (Agenda item 2.4)

Motion: To approve above items 2.2-2.4 as presented

2ND: Rios

Discussion: Legal counsel will present item for Board presentation and review at the June 2020 Board Meeting

Yes: Coronel, Vossler, Rios, Rosales

No: none

Absent: none

Abstain: none

** Trustee Underwood not present for roll call vote – soon returned to meeting

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2020/2021 Budget Draft Discussion/Review

Draft Budget presented for board review, received and filed. Trustees and General Manager will continue to fine tune the proposed budget and revise based on the Covid-19 Relief proposal.

GM Project list update:

New hours for visitation of grounds went into effect on May 8, 2020 - new hours are 5am to 5pm. Signs have been posted throughout the cemetery to advise the public of changes; Board members suggested hours 5am to 6pm to accommodate general working hours.

New Computer system should be operating by the June 2020 board meeting.

CalPers Unfunded Liability

Trustees would like to set a goal to see the unfunded accrued liability brought down by 1/3 and eventually reduce to zero balance over the next 3 years, continue to inform Trustees of this progress on a regular basis.

Wells Fargo Advisors Investment

Trustee Underwood suggests to be routinely informed on the cemetery accounts. Possibly explore a bank change via bid process.

Manager and Trustees can consider Bonds coming due to be cashed out for street project, which will require a RFP. Project direction given by the board for legal counsel and the general manager to proceed and present to board within the next 2 meetings.

CLOSED SESSION

No Items for review

BOARD/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

General Manager reported that this 2020 year there will be no Memorial Day service, it has been cancelled due to Covid-19

Trustee comments:

Underwood - virus can come back and urges caution

Rios - provide more spacious location for next meeting possibly breakroom

Coronel - Thanks to all for the public comments regarding the Covid-19 Proposal

Rosales: Consider in future a Covid-19 memorial service to properly mourn with mass service

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Rosales adjourned the meeting at 10:05 am.

NEXT MEETING TIME, DATE AND LOCATION

Next scheduled meeting is: June 9, 2020 - 8:00 am, Cemetery Office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Herrera, Clerk of the Board
Coachella Valley Cemetery District

Approved: _____ BOD Mtg

May 11, 2020

VIA EMAIL:

General public comments email: coachellacemetery@gmail.com

Trustee Dr. Bruce Underwood: doctor@bruceunderwoodrph.com

Trustee Marcos Coronel Jr. marcos.coronel1@outlook.com

Trustee John Rios: jmrios20@verizon.net

Trustee Ernesto Rosales, Chairperson: ernestorosales@gmail.com

Trustee Judy Vossler, Vice Chairperson: judyvossler@aol.com

General Manager Leland Kestell: vcemetery.lee@gmail.com

Dear Honorable Trustees and General Manager:

I am a Councilmember in the City of Coachella; District 66 Regional Council representative to the Southern California Association of Governments (for Coachella, Blythe, Indio, and La Quinta); as well as a civil rights attorney, business owner, community advocate, and mother. **I contact you to share my support for your proposed allocation of funding to cover burial costs in the wake of the COVID19 crisis, due to the substantial benefit it will provide to our shared communities of interest.¹**

Thank you first and foremost for all of your service and hard work to the cemetery district; I know that it too often goes unnoticed that you and your colleagues help our families through some of the most difficult moments of their lives. I also recognize and appreciate that your work will be even harder in the coming months, as too many of our families will lose loved ones due to the COVID19 pandemic.

I truly appreciate the proposal that you have brought forth for your May 12, 2020 meeting (Item 2.1), which would potentially allocate up to \$300,000 of your budgeted funds to offset burial costs for families whose loved ones pass away during the COVID19 emergency. I understand that you already have some financial support infrastructure in place for similar cases, but the

¹ Nothing in this letter represents, nor is intended to represent, the views or opinions of the City of Coachella or any other city, elected official, or association of governments.

instant pandemic presents new and escalated challenges to all of us. This additional support will not only alleviate a small piece of the strain placed upon families tragically impacted by COVID19, but also assist to fill gaps that will be presented by our community members' inabilities in the current environment to raise burial funding through common practices such as car washes.

As an elected official and business owner, I truly appreciate the challenges in budgeting and balancing costs and benefits—particularly in the midst of crisis. However, I believe that the pandemic warrants allocation and reallocation of funds that we might have otherwise used for other purposes in our jurisdictions, so that we may address the grave losses and challenges that COVID19 is presenting to us.

We will appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this item and will count on your affirmative vote to make it into reality. People are depending on all of us as elected leaders to make the right decisions in this crisis to provide critical support *now*, so that our community members have better chances of personal and economic recovery in the near(er) future.

Sincerely,



Megan Beaman-Jacinto
Coachella City Councilmember

mbjacinto@coachella.org | 442-241-5605 (c) | 1515 6th Street, Coachella, CA 92236

5/12/2020

Gmail - KESQ: Coronavirus Agenda Item question



C.V. Cemetery <coachellacemetery@gmail.com>

KESQ: Coronavirus Agenda Item question

1 message

Madison Weil <madison.weil@kesq.com>
To: coachellacemetery@gmail.com

Tue, May 12, 2020 at 6:40 AM

Hello,

My name is Madison Weil I'm a reporter with KESQ News Channel 3 here in the Coachella Valley covering this agenda item in our newscast later today. My question is if approved, will this new fund help families with the cost of funerals or just the cost of burials on location? Trying to clarify for our audience either way.

Thanks so much for the help and consideration.

Madison Weil
Reporter
KESQ News Channel 3 & CBS Local 2
C: (760) 578-1517

5/12/2020

Gmail - Public Comments: CV Public Cemetery District funds \$300,000 cover burial expenses



Leland Kestell <cvcemetery.lee@gmail.com>

Public Comments: CV Public Cemetery District funds \$300,000 cover burial expenses

1 message

Maribel Nunez <maribelnunez.cap@gmail.com>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 3:59 PM

To: coachellacemetery@gmail.com, doctor@bruceunderwoodrph.com, marcos.coronel1@outlook.com, jmrios20@verizon.net, ernestorosales@gmail.com, judyvossler@aol.com, cvcemetery.lee@gmail.com

Hello Coachella Valley Public Cemetary District Board Members:

In behalf of California Partnership, who is a statewide economic justice coalition and serve the Coachella Valley region. I want to submit public comments I want to ask for your meeting tomorrow agenda item Coachella Valley Public Cemetary District \$300,000 of this district funds to help cover burial expenses for families who tragically lose their loved ones to COVID19. The burial cost per family is about \$2,700, so this allocation could potentially assist with up to 111 burials (and of course we hope that number would never be reached). If it can covers families that live in the area of La Quinta, Indio, Coachella, and all of the unincorporated eastern communities all the way to Chiriaco.

Best,
Maribel Nunez
California Partnership Executive Director
(562) 569-4051



C.V. Cemetery <coachellacemetery@gmail.com>

Submission for Public Comment

1 message

Erick Lemus <elemus.cap@gmail.com>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 11:11 PM

To: Coachellacemetery@gmail.com

Hello,

My name is Erick Lemus. I am the Coachella Valley Organizer for California partnership. We are a state wide organization combating poverty through a health and human services lense

My public comment is for the agenda item regarding funding for families in the east valley due to Covid-19. On behalf of our most vulnerable communities, we would please ask that the \$300,000 for funding be a priority to be allocate to east valley families. These are uncertain times for many people. Many of our east families are having to choose between health and housing. This funding would not only help families in need but would help our community at large to be at peace that the cemetery district is working to help those in need.

We thank you and we will be watching closely.

All the best.

5/12/2020

Gmail - FW: Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District burial services relief fund: CV Public Cemetery District



Leland Kestell <cvcemetery.lee@gmail.com>

FW: Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District burial services relief fund: CV Public Cemetery District

1 message

Marcos Coronel <marcos.coronel1@outlook.com>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 11:09 PM

To: Leland Kestell <cvcemetery.lee@gmail.com>, Carlos Campos <Carlos.Campos@bbklaw.com>

Cc: "doctor@bruceunderwoodrph.com" <doctor@bruceunderwoodrph.com>

Hello Leland,

This email was sent to us as part of public comment; I wanted to make sure it gets added to the record.

Thank you,

Marcos

From: Sergio Carranza <scarranza@pucdc.org>

Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:41 PM

To: "doctor@bruceunderwoodrph.com" <doctor@bruceunderwoodrph.com>

Cc: "marcos.coronel1@outlook.com" <marcos.coronel1@outlook.com>

Subject: Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District burial services relief fund: CV Public Cemetery District

Dear Dr. Underwood,

On behalf of Pueblo Unido CDC, I am writing this email in support to the proposed burial service fund. At this unprecedented time, many farmworker and low-income families will be severely impacted by the pandemic. These communities are the most vulnerable population that are currently exposing their health as essential workers that sustain our food system.

Pueblo Unido CDC is a non-profit organization that serves these communities and is currently assisting through food distribution, and awareness campaign to endure the pandemic. The burial services relief fund will be a resource to an unexpected loss due to the covid-19. I thank you in advance for your solidarity and great effort to bring dignity to many families in the eastern Coachella Valley,

Sincerely,

Sergio Carranza

Executive Director

Pueblo Unido CDC

78150 Calle Tampico, Suite 214 | La Quinta, CA 92253

P (760) 777-7550 ext. 102 | F (760) 771-0271

5/12/2020



C.V. Cemetery <coachellacemetery@gmail.com>

buriel

1 message

Elizabeth Good <dreamcad1@aol.com>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 2:53 PM

Reply-To: Elizabeth Good <dreamcad1@aol.com>

To: "coachellacemetery@gmail.com" <coachellacemetery@gmail.com>

I can't believe all the people who do not plan ahead to cover the cost of burial as we will all be there someday. My family was insurance poor but we always paid our way. No I am not for anymore freebies, our government has already gone overboard & we will be playing catch up for years to come. did I read right the general manager got a 90% raise & compensation package? We should all be so lucky this is definately rediculous!

5/12/2020

Gmail - Executive order N. 29-20



C.V. Cemetery <coachellacemetery@gmail.com>

Executive order N. 29-20

1 message

mcrismorena@hotmail.com <mcrismorena@hotmail.com>
To: coachellacemetery@gmail.com

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Greetings and well-being to the members of the Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District.

Thank you for the services you provide for families in the Coachella Valley always.

I'm reaching out as a concerned member of the community. You know more than anyone the financial costs of loosing a loved one. There are many people in our community in dire need of financial support in the midst of this global pandemic who are not just dealing with the emotional and physical loss of a loved one. Some have lost jobs, are far behind on rent/mortgage, bills, etc. I am aware of a private Cemetery is overwhelmed with requests for financial assistance. I don't know what they are doing to deal with it.

It is in times of crisis that people and institutions have the opportunity to show our strength and character, please do as much as possible to provide some financial relief for those suffering and carrying a heavier burden than those of us limited to confinement.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Maria Cristina Mendez

5/12/2020

SCHEDULE 'A' - 9 OF 16

Gmail - Coachella Valley Cemetery District



Leland Kestell <cvcemetry.lee@gmail.com>

Coachella Valley Cemetery District

1 message

Laura Ramirez <ramirezlaura.d@gmail.com>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 9:26 PM

To: coachellacemetery@gmail.com, doctor@bruceunderwoodrph.com, marcos.coronel1@outlook.com, jmrrios20@verizon.net, ernestorosales@gmail.com, judyvossler@aol.com, cvcemetry.lee@gmail.com

Dear Honorable Board of Trustees and General Manager:

I am a resident of and appreciate all that the Cemetery District does to provide services to families in the eastern side of the valley in some of their most difficult moments. Tragically, the pandemic we are experiencing now is heavily impacting communities around the globe, and we know that our families here in the East Valley are also suffering losses.

Recently, I learned of the District's important effort to allocate funding to offset burial costs for families who lose loved ones to COVID-19 (May 12, 2020 Agenda Item 2.1). I truly appreciate this effort and wholeheartedly support it. I understand that the proposed allocation of \$300,000 could potentially provide much-needed relief to more than 100 families, and there has never been a time in recent history in which this type of relief was more needed.

I urge you to vote yes on Item 2.1 to provide our neighbors with critical support in this crisis. This important effort will be a part of your legacy as a leader of the Eastern Coachella Valley.

Sincerely,

Laura Ramirez
8000 ave 48 spc 98



Leland Kestell <cvcemetary.lee@gmail.com>

PUBLIC COMMENTS TO BE READ ALOUD - Item/topic: Public Comment/3.1 Budget

1 message

B Anderson <BAndersonranchomirage@hotmail.com>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 11:00 PM

To: "coachellacemetery@gmail.com" <coachellacemetery@gmail.com>

Cc: Leland Kestell <cvcemetary.lee@gmail.com>

Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District (CVPCD)

82925 Ave. 52

Coachella, CA. 92236

(760) 398-3221

Attn: Clerk of the Board/Board Members

Re: Written letter (email) to be "READ ALOUD AT THIS MEETING" and entered in to the Public record for the Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District Board meeting held on May 12, 2020 - Item/topic: Public Comment / 3.1

Dear CVPCD Board Members,

Please be advised that areas of the Coachella Valley have shown increases in Mosquitoes. Please reduce the threat of mosquito bites or worse - by eliminating standing water. Thank you

It was noticed that the CVPCD Board meeting agenda lacked the availability to participate in the CVPCD Public meetings by telephone. Please consider reviewing all potential methods that would allow the General Public the opportunity to observe and or participate in the CVPCD meeting(s). Please choose options that wouldn't add any additional financial burden onto Residents (locally sourced telephone number/toll-free)

Please also consider allowing the Public easy (potentially included with the Webpage Agendas) access to all Board Packet(s) (example: Draft Budget).

As you are aware, Public meeting held away from District Headquarters (No Public access) limits the Public's abilities to retain CVPCD Board reports prior to Board meetings.

Sincerely,

Brad Anderson | 760.409.9434 (Cell)



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
45-299 Deglet Noor St.
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 347-3507

May 1st, 2020

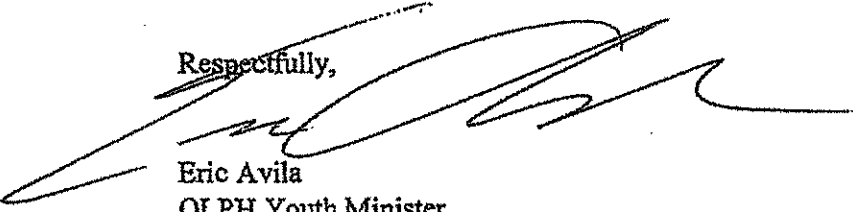
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the COVID-19 Emergency Response FUND (CERF) to help provide relief to the Coachella Valley Cemetery District. As a resident of Indio, CA for over 30 years I have seen countless families reach out for support and attempt to fundraise the funds necessary when a love one passes away. Unfortunately, in 2020 the price of properly mourning and burying a loved one is more than many are prepared to pay at a moment's notice.

Recently with the necessary changes made to help flatten the curve and keep our county safe, it has also put an increased strain with financially being able to support the costs of a burial. Death is inevitable, but unfortunately our society continues to add a cost to one of life's unfortunate requirements. As a community I think it shows more value and responsibility if we gather to support and assist one another in these times than to continue to self-profit. In a time where we are constantly evaluating what is essential and not essential; I find that the CERF project is essential in supporting our Coachella Valley neighbors.

I fully support not only the city of Indio, but the entire Coachella Valley Cemetery District in the development of this emergency relief fund. I pray that if I was in situation where I was unable to properly grieve a loved one's passing, that I too would have been met with this unwavering support.

Respectfully,



Eric Avila
OLPH Youth Minister
Indio, CA 92201
760.347.3507 ext. 125
eavila@sbdioocese.org



Leland Kestell <cvcemetery.lee@gmail.com>

Public Comment

1 message

Jazmin Ibarra <jazminiba17@gmail.com>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 2:00 PM

To: "cvcemetery.lee@gmail.com" <cvcemetery.lee@gmail.com>, "doctor@bruceunderwoodrph.com" <doctor@bruceunderwoodrph.com>, "ernestorosales@gmail.com" <ernestorosales@gmail.com>, "jmrios20@verizon.net" <jmrios20@verizon.net>, "judyvosslar@aol.com" <judyvosslar@aol.com>, "marcos.coronel1@outlook.com" <marcos.coronel1@outlook.com>

Dear Honorable Board of Trustees and General Manager:

I am a resident of the city of Coachella and appreciate all that the Cemetery District does to provide services to families in the eastern side of the valley in some of their most difficult moments. Tragically, the pandemic we are experiencing now is heavily impacting communities around the globe, and we know that our families here in the East Valley are also suffering losses.

Recently, I learned of the District's important effort to allocate funding to offset burial costs for families who lose loved ones to COVID-19 (May 12, 2020 Agenda Item 2.1). I truly appreciate this effort and wholeheartedly support it. I understand that the proposed allocation of \$300,000 could potentially provide much-needed relief to more than 100 families, and there has never been a time in recent history in which this type of relief was more needed.

I urge you to vote yes on Item 2.1 to provide our neighbors with critical support in this crisis. This important effort will be a part of your legacy as a leader of the Eastern Coachella Valley.

Sincerely,

Jazmin Ibarra
53447 Calle Soledad
Coachella, Ca 92236



Leland Kestell <cvcemetary.lee@gmail.com>

PUBLIC COMMENT, MAY 12, 2020 AGENDA ITEM 2.1

1 message

Jasmin Ceja <jasminceja05@gmail.com>

Sun, May 10, 2020 at 6:34 PM

To: "cvcemetary.lee@gmail.com" <cvcemetary.lee@gmail.com>, "ernestorosales@gmail.com" <ernestorosales@gmail.com>, "jmrios20@verizon.net" <jmrios20@verizon.net>, "judyvossler@aol.com" <judyvossler@aol.com>

May 10, 2020

Dear Honorable Board of Trustees and General Manager:

I am a resident of Jasmin Ceja and appreciate all that the Cemetery District does to provide services to families in the eastern side of the valley in some of their most difficult moments. Tragically, the pandemic we are experiencing now is heavily impacting communities around the globe, and we know that our families here in the East Valley are also suffering losses.

Recently, I learned of the District's important effort to allocate funding to offset burial costs for families who lose loved ones to COVID-19 (May 12, 2020 Agenda Item 2.1). I truly appreciate this effort and wholeheartedly support it. I understand that the proposed allocation of \$300,000 could potentially provide much-needed relief to more than 100 families, and there has never been a time in recent history in which this type of relief was more needed.

I urge you to vote yes on Item 2.1 to provide our neighbors with critical support in this crisis. This important effort will be a part of your legacy as a leader of the Eastern Coachella Valley.

Sincerely,

Jasmin Ceja

83833 Corte Solis
Coachella Ca 92236

5/11/2020

Gmail - Public Comment 5/12 item 2.1



C.V. Cemetery <coachellacemetery@gmail.com>

Public Comment 5/12 item 2.1

1 message

Rubyd Olvera <rubydolvera19@gmail.com>
To: coachellacemetery@gmail.com

Sun, May 10, 2020 at 7:21 PM

Dear Honorable Board of Trustees and General Manager,

I am a resident of and appreciate all that the Cemetery District does to provide services to families in the eastern side of the valley in some of their most difficult moments. Tragically, the pandemic we are experiencing now is heavily impacting communities around the globe, and we know that our families here in the East Valley are also suffering losses.

Recently, I learned of the District's important effort to allocate funding to offset burial costs for families who lose loved ones to COVID-19 (May 12, 2020 Agenda Item 2.1). I truly appreciate this effort and wholeheartedly support it. I understand that the proposed allocation of \$300,000 could potentially provide much-needed relief to more than 100 families, and there has never been a time in recent history in which this type of relief was more needed.

I urge you to vote yes on Item 2.1 to provide our neighbors with critical support in this crisis. This important effort will be a part of your legacy as a leader of the Eastern Coachella Valley. We hope you can provide that means so much to our communities.

Sincerely,

Rubyd Olvera
83149 Date Ave Indio CA 92201



C.V. Cemetery <coachellacemetery@gmail.com>

COVID Burials

1 message

Donna <dmooresmd@gmail.com>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 7:40 AM

To: "coachellacemetery@gmail.com" <coachellacemetery@gmail.com>

Great idea to help those who are most hurt by the pandemic. Great way to spend public dollars. GO FOR IT!

Donna Moores,, MD

48-170 Hjorth St

Indio

Sent from Mail for Windows 10